

Appln. No. 09/933,265

Attorney Docket No. 68775-042

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the above-captioned application as amended.

By this amendment, claims 1-23 remain presented for examination. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1, 11, 20 and 22 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 20-23 are allowed and that 1-19 would be allowable if rewritten to correct antecedent basis.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required updating of the status of the copending applications recited in the specification. As shown above, Applicants have updated the status of those of the applications whose status has changed. Applicants respectfully note that the filing date already is given for each copending application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve these corrections.

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for faulty antecedent basis in claims 1 and 11. As shown above, Applicants have amended these claims to clarify the antecedent basis. No substantive change has been made in the intended scope of the claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the amended claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1-23 herein are in proper form and patentably distinguished from the cited prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully respected to allow claims 1-23 and to pass this case to issue.

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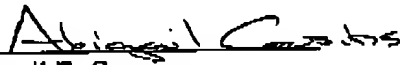
Respectfully submitted

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